

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 6 and 10 are amended herein. Claims 1-5 have been withdrawn. New claims 11-16 are presented. A listing of all claims currently pending and amended herein are shown below. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter claims 6 and 10 as amended and new claims 11-16. The listing of claims below replaces all previously amended claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice, comprising the steps of :
 - (a) receiving a text email message;
 - (b) parsing the name of an intended recipient;
 - (c) determining if the intended recipient is an authorized user;
 - (d) if the intended recipient is authorized, assigning a message-specific indicia to the message;
 - (e) if the intended recipient is authorized, appending a reply notice with the message-specific indicia to the message;
 - (f) if the reply notice is appended, saving the email message with the reply notice appended thereto; and
 - (g) if the intended recipient is authorized, transmitting the email message with the reply notice to the intended recipient.
2. (Withdrawn) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 1, further comprising the step of rejecting the email message if the intended recipient is not authorized.
3. (Withdrawn) A method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) extracting message header information from a received text email message;

- (b) dividing the message header information into components thereof;
- (c) analyzing the components of the message header;
- (d) assigning a message-specific indicia to the message;
- (e) appending a reply notice comprising an instruction to the user of the portable electronic device that in order to reply to the text email by phone the user of the portable electronic device must initiate a telephone call to a selected phone number and enter the assigned message-specific indicia;
- (f) saving the email message with the reply notice appended thereto; and
- (g) transmitting the email message with the reply notice to the user of the portable electronic device.

4. (Withdrawn) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 3, further comprising the step of determining whether the name and email address of the sender of the email message are recorded in an address list, and, if not, entering the name and address thereof.

5. (Withdrawn) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 4, further comprising the step of determining whether the name and email address of the sender of the email message are recorded in an address list, and, if not, entering the name and address thereof.

6. (Currently amended) A method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice, comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving a call in an email server from the user of the portable electronic ~~device~~ device;
- (b) determining if the user of the portable electronic device is registered as a user of the email server;
- (c) obtaining a pre-assigned message-identifying indicium from the user of the portable electronic device, the message-identifying indicium having been assigned to an email

message received by the user of the portable electronic device prior to ~~a transmission~~ receipt of the email message ~~thereto~~ by that user;

- (d) authenticating the message-identifying indicium;
- (e) requesting the user of the portable electronic device to record a voice message;
- (f) recording the voice message; and
- (g) transmitting the voice message to the user of the office-based terminal.

7. (Original) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 6, further comprising the step of converting the recorded voice message into a format adapted for attachment to an electronic message.

8. (Previously presented) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 6, further comprising the step of playing an error message and terminating the program if the user of the portable electronic device is not registered as a user of the email server.

9. (Original) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 6, further comprising the step of determining if the recorded message is acceptable and if not, recording the message again.

10. (Currently amended) A method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice, comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving a call in an email server from the user of the portable electronic device;
- (b) determining if the user of the portable electronic device is registered as a user of the email server;
- (c) obtaining a pre-assigned message-identifying indicium from the user of the portable electronic device, the message-identifying indicium having been assigned to an email

message received by the user of the portable electronic device prior to ~~a transmission~~ receipt of the email message ~~thereto~~ by that user;

- (d) authenticating the message-identifying indicium;
- (e) requesting the user of the portable electronic device to record a voice message;
- (f) recording the voice message;
- (g) converting the recorded voice message into MP-3 format; and
- (h) transmitting the voice message to the user of the office-based terminal.

11. (New) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 6, further comprising identifying the user of the portable electronic device by using a Caller ID service.

12. (New) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 6, further comprising, if a Caller ID service is not operating, prompting the user of the portable electronic device to enter a personal identification number ("PIN"), and authenticating the PIN to determine whether it is valid.

13. (New) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 6, wherein the pre-assigned message-identifying indicium allows the voice message to be transmitted efficiently to the office-based terminal.

14. (New) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 10, further comprising identifying the user of the portable electronic device by using a Caller ID service.

15. (New) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 10, further

comprising, if a Caller ID service is not operating, prompting the user of the portable electronic device to enter a PIN, and authenticating the PIN to determine whether it is valid.

16. (New) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 10, wherein the pre-assigned message-identifying indicium allows the voice message to be transmitted efficiently to the office-based terminal.